

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☐

Property Name: Old Morris House Inventory Number: K-403
 Address: 25184 Mary Morris Road City: Worton Zip Code: 21678
 County: Kent USGS Topographic Map: Chestertown
 Owner: Brick House Farm, Inc. C/O Walter T Morris Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes
 Tax Parcel Number: 28 Tax Map Number: 33 Tax Account ID Number: 001245
 Project: Chestertown Emergency Services Tower (Site II) Agency: DBM
 Site visit by MHT Staff: ☐ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
 Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None
 Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP Form

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The structure known as the Old Morris House faces Mary Morris Road and is surrounded by trees and agricultural fields. The brick, five-bay long, two-bay long L-plan Victorian has undergone several changes which is reflected in the various materials and additions on the house.

The two and a half story brick house is a modified central hall plan in the main house. A side-gabled, medium pitched roof is intersected with three equally-spaced front-gabled dormer windows on the façade or south side of the house. Arched, two-over-two sash windows occupy the dormers. Brick chimneys with corbelled caps extend from the composite asphalt shingled roof. One interior chimney rises from the west end of the main portion of the house, and the other is positioned between the fourth and fifth window towards the east end. The roof overhangs the cornice slightly, though no decorative moldings (cornice, fascia, or eaves) are found.

A three-bay, hipped-roof front porch is supported with turned posts and wood brackets. Wide fascia board trims the porch cornice.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: Good example of vernacular Victorian style in region - speculation on that it may contain remnants of earlier building is not at all relevant to its eligibility.
Andrew Lewis

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

200403073

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

K-403

The fenestration of the reddish-brick façade consists of five equally-spaced windows with louvered shutters on the second level. The two western-most windows are one-over-one sash, while the others are two-over-two double-hung windows. Two windows (two-over-two double-hung) flank each side of the front door on the lower level. The simple front door is headed with a transom window.

The east and west gable end and of the main portion is clad with stucco over brick. The fenestration consists of two, one-over one sash windows on the attic level, and two sets of double, two-over-two double-hung windows on both the second and first floor levels.

The east side of the house depicts the front of the ell. It was noted in the MIHP form completed in 1994 by Marsha Fritz that this portion could be part of the original house that faced east. Evidence was found in the cellar indicating the foundation walls of an earlier structure, including the relieving arch of a massive corner chimney. It was speculated that some of the original brick walls are incorporated into this ell portion of the house.ⁱ

The ell is also two-and-a half stories tall and clad with stucco over brick and vinyl siding. The siding covers only the northern half of the ell, while reddish-brick in a running bond pattern is exposed on the southeastern, lower-level portion of the ell. Two dormer windows similar to those on the façade project from the slopes of the end-gable roof of the ell. Three windows are spaced evenly across the east side of the ell on the second level, while a filled-in door opening is positioned between two windows on the lower level. A shed-roofed porch shelters the southeast window and door opening. The west side of the ell is of similar fenestration, and also has a porch similar the one on the façade.

Also found on the property is the old carriage house and stable which has been converted into the garage. The two-story (including hay loft) frame structure square in form with a one-story back addition. Board and battens enclose the structure, which is sheltered with a medium-pitched gable roof trimmed with scalloped cornice boards.

An additional stone well house is located east of the house. The well house is constructed of rubble-field stone and appears to have a new gabled roof. This small structure could date from the 18th century and possibly be associated with the original house that once stood on the foundation of the existing house.

The Old Morris House, though altered and renovated, retains architectural integrity and provides construction details and information of an 18th century structure. The setting of the house has not been significantly altered and the feeling and association with a rural agricultural property remains. It is recommended that the house is eligible for the NRHP under Criteria C for architectural significance.

Prepared by: Kathryn St. Clair

Date Prepared: September 14, 2004

ⁱ Fritz, Marsha. Maryland Historical Trust, Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, K-403, 1994.



MIHP #. K-403

1/3

Old Morris House

Kent Co., MD

Kathryn St. Clair

MD SHPO - NE G

View of the Facade (Southside) of the house.



MHP #K-403

2/3

Old Morris House

Kent Co., MD

Kathryn St. Clair

MD SWPO-NEG.

View of the Northeast Side of the house.



MIHP # K-403

3/3

Old Morris House

Kent Co., MD

Kathryn St. Clair

MD SHPO - NEG

View of the facade of the carriage house.

OLD MORRIS HOUSE (K-403)
Chestertown, Maryland
(18th, late 19th)

The Old Morris House is an L-shaped Victorian brick building with a new skin of aluminum siding. Examination of the foundation shows, however, that the house includes portions of a very early structure which had an enormous corner fireplace. The house is located on Mary Morris Road near the western branch of Radcliffe Creek. It now faces south although the earlier structure apparently faced east. The house is 2½ stories tall.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K - 403

MAGI # 1504035635

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

OLD MORRIS HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side Mary Morris Road, 1/2 mile
east of junction with Flatland Road

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

☒ VICINITY OF

1st

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Theodore Bulynko

Telephone #: 301-778-5492

STREET & NUMBER

RD#4, Box 631

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

Liber #: EHP 105

Folio #: 251

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Mistakenly identified at K-320
on some MHT survey maps.

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-403

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Morris House is an L-shaped Victorian brick building with a new skin of aluminum siding. Examination of the foundation shows, however, that it includes portions of a very early structure which had an enormous corner fireplace. The house is located on Mary Morris Road near the western branch of Radcliffe Creek. It now faces south although the earlier structure apparently faced east. The house is 2½ stories tall.

The front facade is five bays wide with a three bay porch. Three gable dormers with overhanging eaves project from the roof. These dormers have 2 over 2 double hung windows with round upper sash and ornamental faces.

The house has one brick chimney in its gable and another chimney situated between the two northernmost bays. Both chimneys are located at the ridge and have corbelled caps.

The front porch has a flat hipped roof and chamfered square posts with simple triangular wooden bracketts. There is a cyma recta molding at the edge of the roof and a row of flat, carved bracketts on the fascia.

Windows on the front facade and in the gables are evenly spaced and have 2 over 2 sash. Window trim is covered with siding; window sills are plain. The central main entry has a transom light but no sidelights and a door with four panels.

On the interior of the structure is a nice dog-leg stair in the central hall; it is typical of the late 19th century and has a bold, turned newel, a molded handrail and turned balusters. There are ornamental step bracketts on the open string. Window and door trim includes of Grecian ogee and bevel molding and the same profile is used as panel moldings on the four-panel doors and as the upper molding of the baseboards.

The mantles in the front first floors rooms were recently removed; they were marbelized slate. In the second floor rooms and the attic there are mantle shelves

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES late 19th century/18th BUILDER/ARCHITECT
century

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Morris House is significant for its Victorian design and because it incorporates portions of an 18th century structure.

This house was a part of Brick House Farm (K-233) until it was sold to the present owners. In 1877 it was owned by William Morris and it is likely that the modifications in the house were made by him.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

K-403

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

above heating grates. Flooring throughout the building is tongue and groove 4" to 6" random yellow pine, blind-nailed.

This structure is the second house to stand here and the stone foundation of the earlier building can be seen in the north east portion of the cellar. The first floor joists, edged members about 2' on center, remain and the original wide pine flooring can be seen from the basement. The base of the very wide corner fireplace is located in the northeast corner of the cellar room and has portions of a segmental arch about 5' wide. Bricks used for this arch are large and very irregular and have occasional blue-grey glazed headers. The framing for the original first-floor hearth also survives. When the house was remodeled, in the 1870's or 1880's, the hearth, firebox, and chimney were removed and a new chimney stack (the eastern) was constructed.

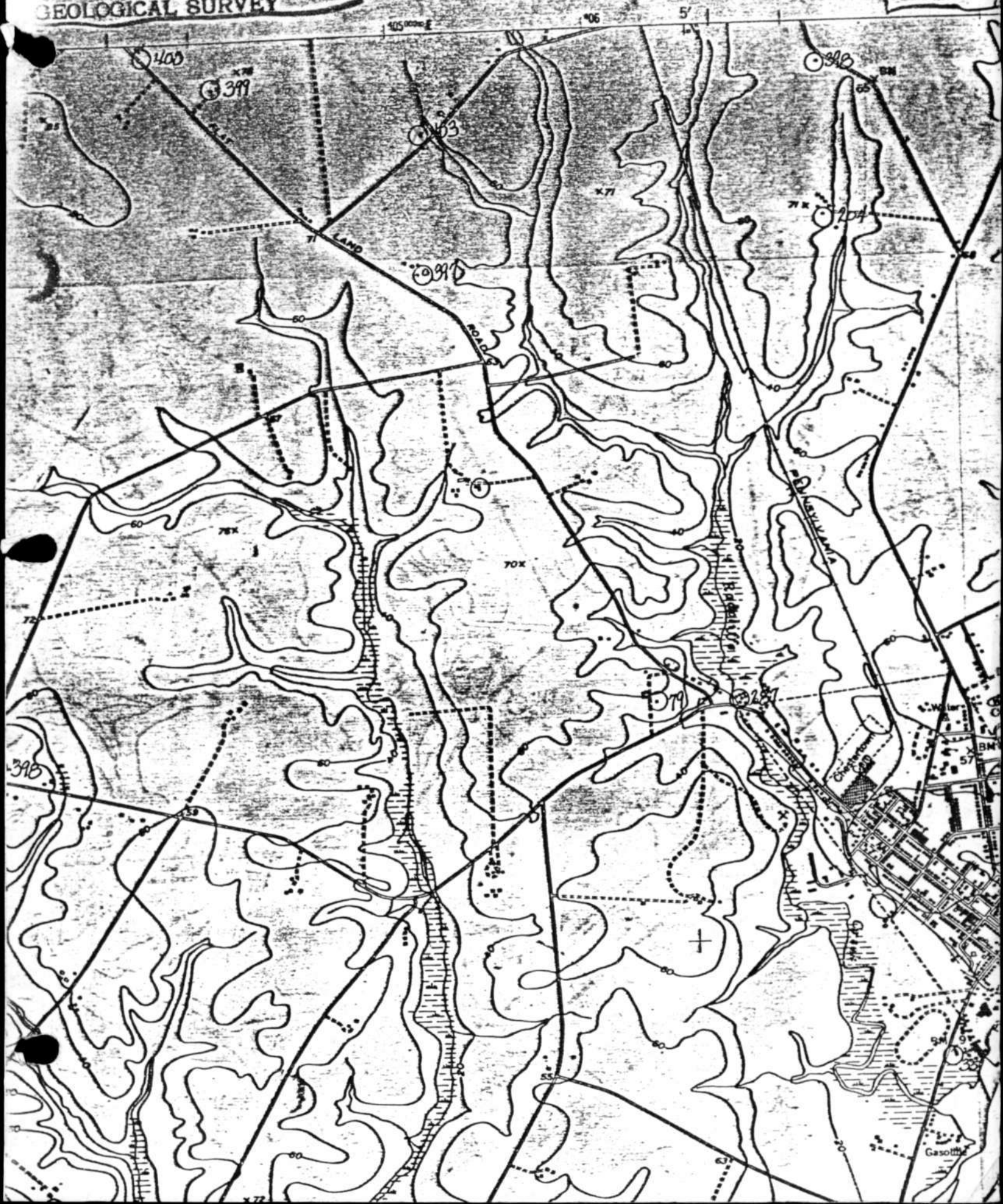
Other portions of the old walls were probably included in the present structure and the stucco, now visible only at the foundation, was an attempt to make the wall surface uniform.

East of the house is a stone well house which was recently rebuilt. A two-story frame carriage house stands northeast of the house. It has a cupula and wide front doors and dates from the late 19th century. It is in very bad repair. There are ruins of a large barn on the property. This structure had heavy, adzed timber framing but is too deteriorated to describe further. It appears to date from the mid-to-late 19th century because its hardware and its nailed roof framing are typical of that period.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

K-403

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





K-403

Old Morris House

View to North

Chestertown

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

3/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 15 1980